

Scientific Research
Special Use Permit Guidelines
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

The information below is designed to assist you in filling out the Special Use Permit application. “Blocks” refer to the numbered sections on the permit application. Not all blocks apply to research permit applications.

Block 1: Provide the basic contact information. The applicant is the person who will be responsible for compliance with the permit and special conditions. Omit taxpayer identification and social security numbers; they are only required for commercial operations.

Block 2: Indicate which refuge you are submitting the application for.

Block 3: Since scientific research is not named in the list of activities, mark “Other” with an X.

Under description of proposed activity or use in block three, please include your study proposal and describe your plan of operations. You may attach your study proposal and provide additional information for any of the following items not already included:

- a) Area of use: Submit a map or describe location of activities. Note: *If the area of use is designated wilderness, or will occur on Native selected lands, please see guidelines following permit questions.*
- b) Time of year: Clearly state the time of year the activity will be done and for how long (dates in the field). If several areas are involved, please indicate when you will be in each area.
- c) Will anyone be staying on refuge lands over night and if so, what type of housing facilities will be used?
- d) Will aircraft or boats be used to access the refuge or for use in your proposed activities? If yes, provide identifying information for plane and boat; type, color, registration numbers, and name of boat.
- e) Will fuel caches be needed?
- f) How many people are involved in the activity? What are their names, addresses and their role in the activity?
- g) If you are camping on the refuge during your research, please describe your safety plan, including equipment available, and names and contact information for people you will be checking in with you while you are in the field.

Blocks 4-12: Research permit applicants skip this section. These questions apply to commercial use applicants.

Block 13: For your information only; no response necessary

Block 14: Research permit applicants skip this section. This question applies to commercial use applicants.

Please sign and date the application. Permit processing can begin if the application information is provided via email, however, a signed permit application must be received before the permit can be issued.

Additional information:

Native Selected Lands - If the proposed use of Refuge lands occurs on Native selected lands, the applicant is required to obtain signed statements from the appropriate Native Corporations documenting their views, prior to the Special Use Permit being issued. On State selected lands, permission must be obtained for any activities that involve construction of permanent facilities, or the removal of minerals or materials. If you do not know whether your use area will include selected lands, please contact the refuge well in advance (at least six weeks) prior to beginning your activity so the appropriate contacts can be made.

Wilderness Guidelines - Consider whether the proposed activities are appropriate in designated wilderness areas. If you are unsure whether your activity will occur in a wilderness area, please contact the Refuge for assistance.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 generally prohibits the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, mechanical transport, and installation of permanent structures in designated wilderness unless the proposed action is necessary for the administration of the area to meet the intent of the Wilderness Act. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act provides exceptions in Alaskan wilderness, allowing access by snowmachines, motorboats, and airplanes for traditional activities. Applicants requesting use of other types of motor vehicles (e.g. helicopters, all terrain vehicles) or motorized equipment in designated wilderness will be required to submit information sufficient for the Refuge Manager to make a determination about whether the proposed use is:

- Necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area to meet the intent of the Wilderness Act
- The minimum action or instrument necessary to successfully, safely, and economically accomplish wilderness management objectives

Please also describe how the use may be conducted to minimize conflict with wildlife, wilderness values, and recreational users.